

Mystery Tokens

Part 2

Ron Benice

Here is the second group of tokens whose historical information has eluded me. Readers of *Alaskan Token Collector* and *Polar Numismatist* are challenged to come up with information about the owners or businesses named on the tokens listed below.

Part 1 in the May/June issue elicited information about three tokens. First, the name of Tony Krier as the Tony of Tony's Recreation in Barrow was supplied by our editor and added before going to press. Another reader came up with Diamante as the first name for D. Zarelli, who was also in business in British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. And in last month's ATCPN, a reader in Chisana confirmed that the Bank Coffee House tokens were in the right place.

Cordova:

Allen. The Ranier-Grand tokens 33A and 33B say "Dooley and Allen." Dooley was a George, but how about a first name for his partner?

Anchor Bar. Anybody know when this place was in business or who owned it? Obviously it was not as famous as the Anchor Bar in Buffalo, N.Y. where Buffalo Wings were invented.

E. W. Butler, the Northern Club. This token needs a date.

Cordova Bar. I'm still looking for the owner and years of operation.

The Mint. Probably a short-lived saloon. Hopefully someone will find it in an old photograph and give us a date of operation.

Old Crow. This token is a maverick, but both Dethridge and Fernald-McDowell attributed it to Cordova. But it wasn't in any of the directories. Look again at those old photos.

M.J. Parker, Saloon and Billiard Room, Cordova, Ala. Some Alaska tokens used the "Ala." abbreviation as did lots of Alabama tokens. Can anyone find a reference to him in Alaska ... or should we let Alabama have him?

Smith's Confectionery. Another maverick placed in Cordova in *Rubles to Statehood* but supporting evidence has not been found.

V. & A. Club. This maverick was attributed to Cordova in *Alaska's Coinage* but no supporting evi-



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EDITORIAL

This month we bring you a continuation of the Mystery Tokens by Ron Benice. This is an attempt to gather more information for the third edition of his book "Alaska Token," right, Ron? Cordova, Council City and Douglas are up this month. We have only one subscriber in Cordova and we are depending heavily upon him to fill in some blanks (hint, hint George!). We have several subscribers in the Juneau/Douglas area, so we are expecting great results in this area.

Also this month, we get to see three books of chits; two Alaskan and one maverick. Our readers are offered the opportunity to purchase unlisted chits from Dutch Harbor. Only one booklet of these chits have turned up, so get your orders into Chena Ventures quickly.

While Ron Benice has been gracious enough to provide a diversion from your editor's writing, we are in need of more Alaska articles. If you have any information to share, please do so.

Watch for us in Coin World and Coinage this fall. Col. Bill Murray will have articles in both publications about his trip to Alaska featuring your editor and business partner, Jerry Cleworth.

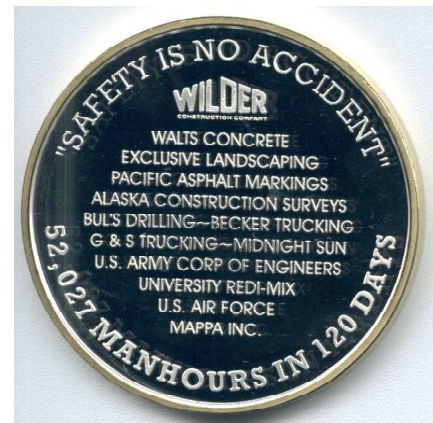
Summer is almost over, and thoughts are turning to our annual religious pilgrimage to Phoenix and our fall auction. The tournament is a bit earlier this year, and our auction will be later. We have pushed the auction back to November. We only have two more issues of ATC&PN for this year, so look for the next one to be mailed about mid to late October, with the Alaska portion of the auction included

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EIELSON RUNWAY REPAIR



Last year, Fairbanks was "treated" to Air Force jets flying out of Fort Wainwright as the runway at Eielson A.F.B. (about 25 miles from Fairbanks) were undergoing repairs. While I am sure some did not like the added noise, your editor was like a little kid when the F-15s (?) were taking off and circling towards the Tanana River to avoid flying over downtown. A-10s were also doing their training, but were extremely slow compared to the F-15s and not as impressive. This medal is two ounces, pure silver with gold relief. 51mm. The mintage was 125 and the medal was struck at the Alaska Mint in Anchorage.



NOME: P.A. Patterson, celluloid measuring tape with a multicolored image (submitted by Richard Reisinger).

MYSTERY TOKENS, CONT.

dence has been uncovered.

Wilson. Another owner of the Ranier-Grand, 33C, missing a first name.

Council City:

Totem Theatre. The token looks really old and the business vanished without a trace.

Douglas:

Denver Bar, Powell & Drew. Powell was partnered with Museth in a saloon in 1912, but who was Drew and when were they partners?

Douglas Cigar Store. Design is not typical and doesn't say Alaska, but Ray Mansfield got it from a long time Douglas resident.

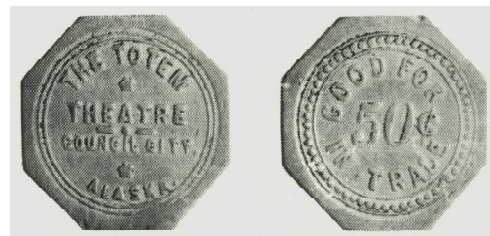
Douglas Pool Hall, G.M. Larson. Unlisted, doesn't say Alaska. Can anybody find a trace of Larson in Douglas?

Douglas Pool Room. Looks ok but doesn't say Alaska. Maybe it will show up in an old street photo.

Horseshoe. Attractive rare old incuse token with no city or state. Can anyone prove it belongs to Douglas, Alaska?

Richard McCormick. He was postmaster in 1911, blacksmith in 1914, watchman for the mines in 1915-1917. But when did he own a saloon or store?

Pioneer, F. Guion. Another neat old token with no city or state on it. Both *Alaska's Coinage* and *Rubles to Statehood* placed it in Douglas.



To be continued ...

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ALONG THE SAME LINES....

Brian Denman reports that a Skagway B-19a, P.C. Co. was recently dug up in the old shipyard area of Whitehorse.

* * * * *

ISLAND CREEK STORES COMPANY



The chit above left is attributed to Spitsbergen by Amundsen and Eldorsen in "Currency of Spitsbergen". These were printed by the Allison Coupon Company of Indianapolis, Indiana. The chit to the right recently came on the market in booklets. These were printed by the Southern Coupon Co., Birmingham, Alabama. These booklets have been seen in \$5, \$10 and \$25 denominations.

The two are markedly different. Any attempt to attribute the second type to Spitsbergen should be met with extreme skepticism.

ALASKA PACKERS ASSOCIATION



This has been sitting in a “photo file” on disc waiting to be used. It has been so long, I don’t remember where it came from. I believe it was on eBay. A very neat item, black on blue/green or gray with red serial numbers. 89mm by 59mm. Obviously meal tickets.

The Pioneers of Alaska have their annual “Mug Up” in Fairbanks. This is the only other time we have heard this term used.

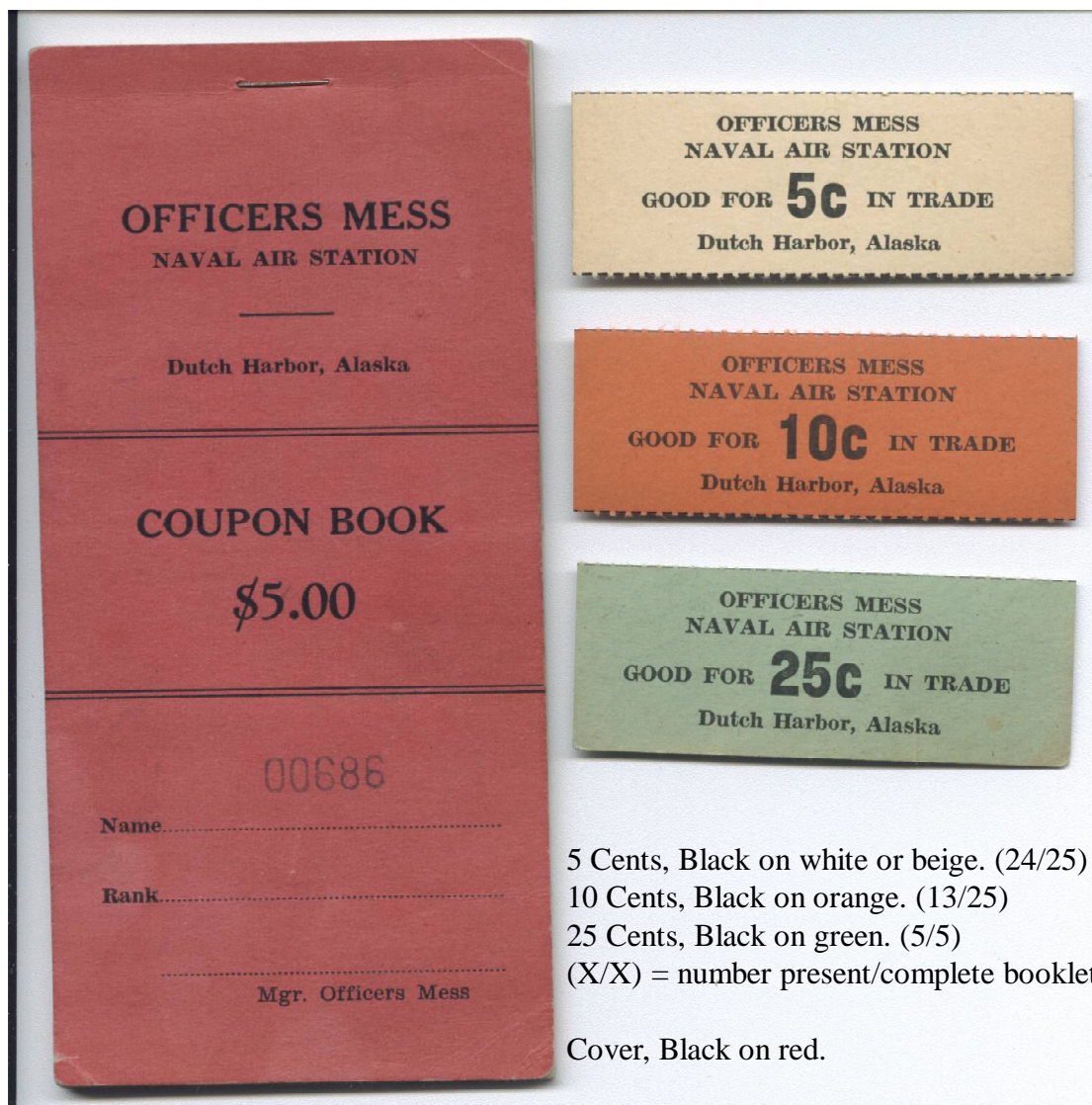


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